

There are two amendments I would propose for your consideration as you proceed in your deliberations:

1. Campaign fundraising for any elected City of Memphis position should not commence until six months prior to filing deadline, and should cease prior to the swearing in.

Having served 8 years on the Memphis City Council, I always felt that open season for campaign contributions allows citizens with business before the Council to make contributions to Councilmember's political campaigns just prior to a vote which in essence is legalized bribery.

Even the State Legislature prevents fundraising during the Legislative session. For those candidates that run a deficit, it's up to them to do all of their fundraising before they take office.

2. All quasi-governmental bodies should account to the City Council every year.

Boards and commissions such as the IDB, Center City Commission, CVB, Memphis in May, etc. that receive taxpayer dollars, use city owned facilities, use the City Treasurer's office for collections, etc. should come under this provision.

The accounting required should be extensive. Employees hired, salaries, office and travel expenses, rents and furnishings should be made available along with receipts and other supporting data.

Many of these boards and commissions act like they're private entities and are reluctant to disclose anything until they want more money. The City Council should be the last approval body. This makes sense because they are the only body that has been elected, and the only body that is directly accountable to the taxpayers. Whatever one thinks of the City Council, they can be fired where some of these boards and commissions cannot.